

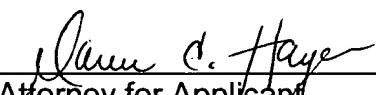
REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 32-73 are pending in this application, with Claims 3-8, 11-15, 21-24, 32-37, and 43-44 having been withdrawn from consideration. In this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 25-31 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 45-73 have been newly added and are directed to the same invention as Claims 25-31, which were elected in response to the Restriction Requirement.

Applicant notes that no Notification of Acceptance into the National Stage has been received in connection with this application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Notification be promptly issued, as required, to avoid difficulties in the future.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a notice thereof is respectfully requested. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be contacted in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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